from "Ark'm Report"

APRIL 4, 1968 (Thursday) continued

was reported to have been seen running South on Main, from 424 S. Main. The description of the suspect that he was a young white male, well dressed, with dark hair, wearing dark colored clothes. At 6:09PM the radio log reflects that MARTIN LUTHER KING was being carried to St. Joseph Hospital in in a Fire Department ambulance, with Ptlmn. Wolfe in the ambulance with him. 6:10PM Tact 10 reported that suspect had left scene in white Mustang driving North on Main. 353)

Richard Lentz, in the Commercial Appeal of 4/5/68 reporting on the events in Memphis following the official announcement of the death of Martin Luther King at 7:06PM, writes:

"Looting, arson and shooting began minutes after the death of DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR., last night, and in hours Tennessee National Guardsmen arrived to take over street patrols in riot-torn Memphis. Negroes began swarming into streets, smashing windows and setting fires shortly after the announcement of the Civil Right's leaders death at 7:05PM.

"In Memphis police had arrested 80 persons by 1AM. There were at least 28 persons reported hurt and a steady flow of injured was being treated in hospitals. No one had been reported killed in the turmoil."

"A general curfew was ordered until 6AM April 5, 1968., with travel allowed only for emergency or health reasons. Schools, shops and businesses were ordered closed."

"At the biggest fire of the night, policemen armed with submachine guns and riot guns guarded firemen who were battling flames that arched 100 feet into the air, at O. W. Ferrell Co., 1001 North Second. Within minutes 14 pieces of fire equipment were at the scene. There were no incidents.

"Tennessee Highway Patrolmen were reported moving in force toward Memphis. Arkansas Governor Winthrop Rockefeller sent ~~xen~~ Arkansas State Troppers to Memphis to observe the rioting. Last week he ordered 175 Arkansas guardsmen called for duty in West Memphis."

"A store on Firestone Blvd. was burned so completely it could not be immediately identified."

"Governor Ellington speaking after the news of Dr. King's death stated, "I can fully appreciate the feelings and emotions which this crime has aroused. But for the benefit of everyone, all of our citizens must exercise caution and good judgement."